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E EICHMANN TRIAL

Israel views the trial of Adolf Eichmann, to begin in Jerusalem on 11 April, as much more than an act of retribution against one of Jewry's chief persecutors under the Nazis. The dispute over the legality of Eichmann's seizure and trial has already provided Ben-Gurion with an occasion for emphasizing Jewish nationalism and Israel's claim to be the spokesman for world Jewry. The prime minister has also made clear that he expects the trial to establish a link between the Nazis and some Arab rulers, both during and since the war. The principal target almost certainly will be UAR President Nasir, who reportedly has used former Nazis as propaganda, military, and technical advisers. Ben-Gurion also hopes the trial will "educate" young Israelis and remind the world of the results of extreme anti-Semitism.

There are indications, however, that Israeli anticipation of these propaganda benefits is tempered by uneasiness. Eichmann's West German lawyer apparently intends to reopen the international controversy over Israeli jurisdiction by charging that Eichmann was forcibly abducted from Argentina and not extradited. Evidence may be introduced into the trial about wartime bargaining between Zionists and Eichmann for the release of Jewish prisoners--in exchange for trucks and other war materiel. This could reflect adversely on certain prominent Israelis who took in the negotiations and revive passions in Israel over allegations that Hungarian Jews were sacrificed in favor of other Jews as part of an abortive deal. Former Prime Minister Moshe Sharett is most frequently mentioned as one who might suffer from such revelations.

Testimony about this incident might also involve the

British Government, which during the war arrested the negotiating intermediary and put pressure on Zionist authorities to reject Eichmann's offer. London is prepared to rebut criticism of its role by citing its strong suspicions of the intermediary as well as the Nazi interests he served in seeking vital war materiel, allegedly for use on Germany's eastern front.

The Soviet bloc undoubtedly views the trial as an opportunity to discredit the West German Government by repeating standard charges of the Nazi background of high-level officials in Bonn. East Germany has sent a notorious West Berlin Communist lawyer to Israel with "evidence" implicating present West German officials as Nazi functionaries and showing the Ulbricht regime as the "good" German state. It probably also will attempt to send delegations of East German victims to Jerusalem to support its case.

West Germany fears that the trial will lead to an increase in anti-German resentment in the Western world, and particularly that it will add to German-American frictions. There is also concern in Bonn that allegations might come out during the trial against leading members of the Bonn government, especially Adenauer's aide Hans Globke, who helped draft the Nuremberg racial laws. Adenauer's party is concerned that these charges might be harmful in the September national election.

The Greek Government is expecting the subject of the moving of 20,000 Jews from northern Greece to extermination camps in Poland, and Globke's implication therein, to be raised at the trial. Eichmann's personal fate, meanwhile, will be determined by his formal prosecution for 15 crimes, 12 of which could draw the death penalty. (CONFIDENTIAL-NOFORN)